

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"



June 21, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADOPT A RESOLUTION ASSIGNING TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS
THE COUNTY'S RIGHT TO APPLY FOR FUNDING
FOR THE WHITTIER NARROWS ORGANIC FARM
UNDER THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996
(First District — 3-Vote Matter)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to the Sections of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, cited herein.
2. Adopt the attached resolution assigning to Community Partners the County's right to apply for \$25,000 of County Excess Funds allocated for projects in the First Supervisorial District under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (the 1996 Proposition) for the development of a four-acre organic farm at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allow Community Partners to apply for \$25,000 of the County's Excess Funds allocated under the 1996 Proposition for projects in the First Supervisorial District to develop an organic farm on a four-acre parcel within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

On May 17, 2005, the Board of Directors of the Regional Park and Open Space District allocated \$25,000 of excess funds for the organic farm project and further, authorized the District to enter into an agreement with Community Partners upon assignment of the funds from the County to Community Partners.

Community Partners, a nonprofit organization, will administer the funding for the benefit of EarthWorks Enterprises. EarthWorks Enterprises will develop and operate the farm. Once established and then on an ongoing basis, the urban farm will be a beautification project that enhances the environment by providing a balanced eco-system showcasing native plants as well as fruits and vegetables. The balanced planting will attract wild birds and beneficial insects. The farm will offer at-risk high school youth, low-income families and other area residents the opportunity to learn organic sustainable agriculture. The total upstart cost of the project, including the \$25,000, is \$228,542. The additional funds include a grant from the California Endowment and other private sector donations.

The assignment of the right to apply for the funding will allow Community Partners to enter into a grant agreement directly with the Regional Park and Open Space District (the District) to fund the improvements and to receive reimbursement directly from the District.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 (Service Excellence), Goal No. 4 (Fiscal Responsibility) and Goal No. 5 (Children and Families' Well-being) by allocating Excess Funds for environmental education opportunities in the South El Monte area of the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

This action will have no impact on the County General Fund as the project is funded by Excess Funds allocated to the County for projects in the First Supervisorial District under the 1996 Proposition.

Sufficient funds are appropriated in the First Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District from Excess Funds available for the County.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, owner of the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, has approved this activity.

County Counsel has reviewed this action as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Whittier Narrows Recreation Area (WNRA) is a federal facility under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and is operated and maintained by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. As a federal facility, all projects at WNRA must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The ACOE has determined that the project is in compliance with NEPA as Categorical Exclusion in accordance with 40 CFR 1508.4 and 33d CFR 230.9 and that the project when considered individually and cumulatively does not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment.

The proposed four-acre organic urban farm at WNRA is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Sections 15303 (d) and 15304 (a) (b) of the State CEQA guidelines and Classes 3 (a) and 4 (a) (c) of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project provides for installation of accessory facilities and minor alterations to land including fine grading, soil preparation and new landscaping on a publicly-owned facility.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES OR PROJECTS

Approval of the recommendations will not impact any other services or any current or planned projects but will allow for the development of the organic farm at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

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CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and to return three conformed copies to the Department.

Respectfully submitted,



Russ Guiney
Director

RG:JW:KW:kw

Attachment (1)

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel

**COUNTY ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHT TO APPLY FOR FUNDS
FOR THE WHITTIER NARROWS RECREATION AREA ORGANIC FARM PROJECT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 24, SUBSECTION b
OF THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996**

WHEREAS, the County, under Section 24, Subsection b of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 is the designated recipient of excess funds allocated for County regional park and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, Community Partners is a qualified 501 (c) (3) non profit corporation; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that it is in the County's interest to assign the County's right to apply for \$25,000 of those funds to Community Partners for the benefit of Earthworks Enterprises for the purpose of development of a four-acre organic farm at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, owners of Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, has approved the activity; and

WHEREAS, the Community Partners will submit an application to the Regional Park and Open Space District to obtain a grant for the above-referenced project:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors hereby:

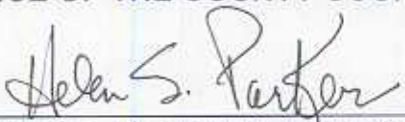
Assigns to Community Partners the County's right to apply for \$25,000 of County Excess Funds for implementation of the Project.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the ____ day of _____, 2005, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, Agencies, and authorities for which said Board so acts.

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
of the County of Los Angeles

By _____
Deputy

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL**

By 
Helen S. Parker, Principal Deputy